

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

Echizen Artist-in-Residence

2027 Mokuhanga Advanced Programs:

Advanced Program D (APD): June 13, 2027 – July 17, 2027

Advanced Program E (APE): July 25, 2027 – August 28, 2027

Mokuhanga Innovation Lab (MI-LAB) has been holding Artist-in-Residence programs of water-based woodblock printmaking techniques in Fujikawaguchiko-cho, Yamanashi Prefecture since 2011. It was relocated to Echizen, Fukui Prefecture after the residency season of 2023. The AIR programs have been held at MI-LAB Echizen Studio near “Echizen Washi Village” since 2024. As you know, Echizen is one of the famous traditional production areas of Japanese paper. We are planning to offer paper making workshops in cooperation of the Udatu Paper and Crafts Museum. We are excited to invite you to MI-LAB AIR, 2027.

GUIDELINES OUTLINE

The MI-LAB Committee invites artists who want to improve Japanese water-based woodblock printmaking (Mokuhanga) skills. Artists will learn Mokuhanga under Japanese instructors and make prints while living at the Echizen residence for 35 days, including their arrival and departure dates. This is a self-support pay program, and artists need to finance themselves to participate in it.

Hereinafter, Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory will be referred to as ‘THE ORGANIZER’, and the program as ‘THE PROGRAM’.

1 Eligibility

I. Should have basic woodblock printmaking skills* and be able to prove it in the application showing images/photography of own artworks and carved blocks.

**For those who have finished one of the MI-LAB AIR Basic Training Programs: The year of application must be at least two years after your participation in the Basic Program. You are requested to demonstrate that you have been actively engaged in producing and exhibiting water-based woodblock prints during this time.*

For those who have not completed the program: You are requested to demonstrate that you have equivalent skills and experiences in water-based woodblock prints to those who are mentioned above.

II. Work along with their project brief (proposal) which should include clear and detailed objectives, as well as their future plan after the Program.

III. To raise funds for necessary costs by themselves covering travel, insurance, meals, shipping cost of the materials and all the other expenses necessary to travel and stay in Japan.

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- IV. To understand English or Japanese well enough to achieve meaningful participation in the Program.
- V. To be in good health being attested by a doctor. To have no problem in staying in a traditional Japanese style two-floor residence house (see attachment No.1).
- VI. To be willing to follow the activities and residential arrangements as planned by the Organizer.
- VII. To follow residence regulations and manage residence and studio life safely and peacefully.
- VIII. To be eager to communicate in good spirit with other participating artists and local people, and thereby contribute to mutual understanding and goodwill between Japan and other countries.
- IX. To accept the donation of the prints which you make during the Program.

2 Participation fee

Artists in this program pay **JPY 550,000** (including consumption tax + PayPal handling fee) to the MI-LAB Committee: JPY 150,000 must be paid at the time of the contract as the registration fee and the remaining JPY400,000 will be charged one month prior to the beginning of your program. Payments should be made by PayPal.

Please note that we cannot refund any money after the payment has been received, including cancellation after the final payment.

3 The number of participants in the program

A program will be held with 4 to 6 participants. If the number of accepted artists to the program you applied for is less than four, you might be asked to shift to another program.

4 Organizer's obligations

The participation fee will cover the following costs and program:

- I. A private room with Japanese tatami for each participant; a kitchen and a bathroom for common use.
- II. A large studio with Japanese tatami for common use and one workbench for each participant. If the room is not large enough, another room will also serve as a studio.
- III. The program overview:
In this program each participant will make Mokuhanga works according to his/her project submitted upon application. In addition, participants will learn Japanese style bookbinding and how to replace baren skin.

The 1st and the 2nd Technical instruction, tools and material study, 1-day week: papermaking workshop, self-study and a follow up session.

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The 3rd week:	Self-study and a follow up session.
The 4th week	Japanese style bookbinding and framing workshop.
The 5th week:	Self-study and the review session; preparing donation prints, answering questionnaires, packing and cleaning

** The schedule may change depending on the situation.*

IV. Woodblocks, paper, watercolor paints and basic material necessary for production during the Program will be provided by the Organizer. Additional costs will be charged for the use of extra materials.

V. Upon request, English-speaking staff will assist you to make living in Echizen easy and comfortable.

VI. Visa support will be provided to those who need it

5. Application

Please submit your application via Google Forms: (link)

Please submit the required documents and images by email to: infodesk(at)endeavor.or.jp

Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Result notification: Thursday, April 30, 2026

6. CONTACT

e-mail: infodesk(at)endeavor.or.jp

web: <http://www.endeavor.or.jp/mi-lab/>